SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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Association Intelligence.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THERE was a meeting of the Council at the Connaught Rooms, London, on the morning of Saturday, July 24th, 1915.

Present:

Dr. J. A. MACDONALD, LL.D., Taunton, Chairman of Council, in the chair.

Mr. T. JENNER VERRALL, LL.D., Bath, Chairman of Representative Meetings.

Dr. EDWIN RAYNER, Stockport, Treasurer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir JAMES BARR, M.D., LL.D., Liverpool
Dr. M. G. BIGGS, London
Mr. H. B. BRACKENBURY, London
Dr. H. J. CAMPBELL, Bradford
Dr. J. SINGLETON DARLING, Lurgan
Lieutenant E. ROWLAND FOTHERGILL, Hove
Major JAMES GALLOWAY, London
Mr. T. W. H. GARSTANG, Altrincham
Dr. THOMAS A. GOODFELLOW, Manchester
Dr. JOHN GORDON, Aberdeen
Major T. DUNCAN GREENLEES, Weymouth
Dr. MAJOR GREENWOOD, London
Major W. J. GREER, Newport, Mon.
Dr. J. R. HAMILTON, Hawick
Mr. RICHARD HARDING, New Radnor
Major R. WALLACE HENRY, Leicester
Mr. R. J. JOHNSTONE, Belfast
Captain F. CHARLES LARKIN, Liverpool
Major ALBERT LUCAS, Birmingham
Fleet Surgeon F. D. LUMLEY, R.N., Greenock
Dr. H. C. MACTIER, Wolverhampton
Major GEORGE PARKER, Bristol
Dr. A. TENNYSON SMITH, Orpington
Dr. W. JOHNSON SMYTH, Bournemouth
Mr. E. B. TURNER, London
Dr. O. R. M. WOOD, Woolpit

APOLOGIES.

Letters of apology for non-attendance were read from: The President-elect, Major S. H. Lee Abbott, I.M.S., Dr. John Adams, Dr. David Ewart, Dr. J. J. Giusani, Mr. James Green, Colonel R. I. D. Hackett, Colonel W. Johnston, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Munro Moir, Captain J. E. Moorhouse, Major F. J. Smith, and Dr. Denis Walshe.

DEATHS.

The deaths of Mr. Edmund Owen, a former Chairman of Council, and Dr. Bruce Goff, for many years a member of the Council, were reported by the CHAIRMAN, who was requested to convey to the respective families the deep sympathy of the Council in their bereavement, and at the same time to express sincere appreciation of the valuable services they rendered to the Association.

REPRESENTATIVE MEETING.

The minutes of the Representative Meeting of Friday, July 23rd, 1915, were considered and approved.

SCIENCE COMMITTEE.

The CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL (in the absence of the Chairman of the Science Committee) presented the report of the Science Committee.

RENEWED GRANTS.

Renewed grants were made for 1915–16 for the following work:

Donald, John, M.D.Glasg., D.P.H.Camb.: The action of hedonal upon animals, especially on heart and vessels.

Knowles, Kate, M.B., B.S.Lond.: (1) The causes of osteomalacia. (2) The action of extracts of ductless glands on the disease, including B and P records. (3) Examination of blood, urine, and ovaries of patients suffering from osteomalacia.

Mutch, Nathan, M.D., B.C.Cantab., M.A.Cantab.: The bacteriological and chemical investigation of chronic intestinal infections.

Symes, W. L., M.R.C.S.Eng.: On digitalis: (1) Diuresis. (2) Influence of enzymes on digitalis glucosides. (3) Mutual influence of the several digitalis glucosides.

NEW GRANTS.

New grants were made for 1915–16 for the following work:

Barber, H. W., M.B., B.C.Cantab., M.A.Cantab.: (1) To complete research begun in Hamburg "On the chemical nature and staining properties of certain undescribed substances in the epidermis"; (2) On the metabolism of psoriasis patients; (3) The bacteriology of the faeces in certain diseases.

Drinkwater, H., M.D., C.M., F.R.S.Edin.: A second brachydactylous family. (The work is completed.)

Harvey, W. H., M.D.Tor., M.A.Cantab.: Investigation of the musculature of glands, especially in reference to the kidney.

Dove, Miss E. L., M.B.Lond.: The simplest and most practicable means in the home of disinfecting floor surfaces, handkerchiefs, books, toys, etc., which have been exposed to infection by the tubercle bacillus.

AWARD OF GOLD MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED MERIT.

The following letter was read from Captain Martin-Leake, V.C.:

Marshalls, Ware,
July 16th, 1915.

The Secretary, British Medical Association.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter dated July 7th stating that at a meeting of the Council of the British Medical Association it was decided that the Gold Medal for Distinguished Merit should be offered to me. In reply I beg to request that you will convey my deep feelings of appreciation to the members of the Council for their great honour, and inform them that I shall accept the medal with great pride and gratitude. I much regret to say that at present I cannot see my way to have the honour of attending to accept the medal as I have to return to France in a few days.—I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

A. MARTIN-LEAKE.

CENTRAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR LONDON.

Mr. E. B. TURNER, representative of the Council on the Central Nursing Council for London, reported that owing to new Standing Orders having been agreed upon it would be necessary for the Council to appoint its three representatives. Mr. Turner was thanked for his services, and the consideration of the question was deferred until the October Council.

There was a further meeting of the Council in the evening of July 24th, this being the new Council for 1915–16, Dr. J. A. MACDONALD (Taunton), Chairman of Council, in the chair.

WAR EMERGENCY COMMITTEE.

There were seven nominations for the four members of the Council to the War Emergency Committee, appointed under Minute 37 of the A.R.M., and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Barr, Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. Bolam, Major James Galloway, and Mr. Bishop Harman were duly elected.

RETURNS OF THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL BY THE REPRESENTATIVE MEETING.

The CHAIRMAN of Representative Meetings reported the returns of the election of members of Council as follows:

(a) Elected by Grouped Representatives.

Dr. M. G. Biggs, Major Russell Coombe, Dr. J. Singleton Darling, Major A. C. Farquharson, Lieutenant E. Rowland Fothergill, Mr. T. W. H. Garstang, Mr. N. Bishop Harman, Dr. H. C. Mactier, Colonel C. H. Milburn, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Munro Moir, and Captain J. E. Moorhouse.

(b) Elected by the Representative Body as a Whole.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Barr, Mr. E. J. Domville, Dr. G. E. Haslip, and Dr. T. Jenner Verrall.

DATES OF MEETINGS.

The following dates were provisionally fixed for the quarterly meetings of Council for the ensuing twelve months: Wednesday, October 27th, 1915; Wednesday, January 26th, 1916; Wednesday, April 26th, 1916; and Wednesday, June 7th, 1916.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL REPRESENTATIVE MEETING.

The CHAIRMAN of Representative Meetings presented the minutes of the Representative Meetings of Saturday, July 24th, which were considered and approved.

It was left to the Chairman of Council, in conference with the Chairman of Representative Meetings, to remit the various resolutions of the Representative Meeting to the appropriate Committees.

[The meeting terminated at 6.25 p.m.]

Association Notices.

FURTHER EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

MEMBERS are reminded that a further Extraordinary General Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at the Head Office of the Association, No. 429, Strand, London, W.C., on Wednesday, the 11th day of August, 1915, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose of considering and if thought fit confirming as Special Resolutions the Resolutions which were passed by the requisite majority at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, W.C., on Saturday, the 24th day of July, 1915, Notice of which Meeting was given in the successive SUPPLEMENTS TO THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL dated June 26th and July 3rd, 10th, and 17th.

It is necessary that a quorum should be obtained at this Meeting in conformity with By-law 29, otherwise the Meeting will have to be adjourned in pursuance of the provisions of By-laws 29 and 30.

By order,

GUY ELLISTON,

Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

BRANCH AND DIVISION MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.—Dr. James Don, Honorary Secretary, 1, Grove Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, gives notice that the annual meeting of the Branch, which will be purely a business meeting, will be held at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on Tuesday, August 10th, at 3.30 p.m.

A list of periodical publications, official reports, and Blue Books in the Library of the British Medical Association available for issue to members on loan has been printed, and copies can be obtained free on application to the Librarian, at the house of the Association, 429, Strand, W.C. The regulations governing the loan of these publications are stated in the introduction to the list. The Library is open for consultation from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. (on Saturdays till 2 p.m.).

LOCAL MEDICAL AND PANEL COMMITTEES.

BERKS COUNTY.

MEDICAL COMMITTEE.

THE thirty-first meeting of the Berks County Medical Committee was held in the Board Room, Royal Berks Hospital, on July 8th, when Mr. NAPIER JONES was in the chair.

Election of Committee.—The HONORARY SECRETARY reported that he had, by permission of the Commissioners, sent notices to all the practitioners on the panel, asking whether they had any objection to the Panel Committee remaining in office for a year. About fifty answers had been received, and no objections had been raised. The Committee approved the Honorary Secretary's action.

Committees.—Dr. Bokenham was elected on the Finance Subcommittee in place of Dr. Susmann, and the members of the Medical Service Subcommittee were re-elected.

BIRMINGHAM.

PANEL COMMITTEE.

THE first meeting of the Birmingham Panel Committee for the year 1915–1916 was held on July 27th, when Mr. PARROTT (the Returning Officer) presided at the outset.

Election of Officers.—The following were elected:

Chairman: Dr. Dain.
Vice-Chairman: Dr. Lydall.
Honorary Secretary: Dr. Garbutt.
Honorary Treasurer: Dr. Dain.

Several members were co-opted and casual vacancies were filled. The various Subcommittees were also elected.

Excessive Prescribing.—A list of those practitioners who had exceeded the capitation fee during 1914 was presented by the Pharmaceutical Committee with a request for investigation of the same. The matter was referred to the Pharmacopoeia Subcommittee.

EAST SUFFOLK.

PANEL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the East Suffolk Panel Committee was held at Saxmundham on July 13th, when Dr. HELSHAM was in the chair.

Medical Service Subcommittee.—Drs. Leach, Perry, and Giuseppi were appointed to represent the Committee on the Medical Service Subcommittee.

Final Settlement for 1913.—The CHAIRMAN reported that the subcommittee appointed at the last meeting to deal with the final settlement for 1913 had effected a satisfactory settlement upon the basis shown in the statements, copies of which had been sent to each member of the Committee. The action of the subcommittee was confirmed.

Attendance of Members of Committee.—A letter from the Insurance Commissioners, dated June 9th, 1915, was read with reference to the absence of certain members of the Committee from three consecutive meetings. The question of altering the time and place of the meetings of the Committee was postponed.

Prescriptions.—The CHAIRMAN read the report of the checker with reference to prescriptions for the quarter ending March 31st, 1915, and explained that the Committee might deem it advisable to hold inquiries in certain cases of alleged over-prescribing. The Clerk to the Insurance Committee was requested to furnish a copy of the report and analysis to each member of the Committee, and the matter was adjourned to the next meeting.

Pharmacopoeia.—Drs. Baron, Giuseppi, Havell, Keer, and Ranson were appointed a subcommittee to consider and report on the advisability of adopting a pharmacopoeia.

LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the East Suffolk Local Medical Committee was held on the same day and with the same Chairman.

Representative on the Insurance Committee.—It was resolved that Dr. Barraclough be appointed to fill the vacancy upon the Insurance Committee caused by the resignation of Dr. H. Muir Evans.

Medical Service Subcommittee.—It was resolved that Dr. Askin be appointed to represent the Committee upon the Medical Service Subcommittee.

WEST SUFFOLK.

LOCAL MEDICAL AND PANEL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the West Suffolk Local Medical and Panel Committee was held at the Angel Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds, on July 13th, when Dr. WOOD was in the chair.

Suspense Register.—It was reported that 1,460 slips had been cleared from the suspense register, but as against this 995 slips had been added to it in respect of persons for whom no "slip" had been entered. The result of some six months' work, therefore, was the diminution of the suspense register by 465 slips.

Final Credit for the Year 1913.—A letter was read from the Clerk to the Insurance Committee pointing out that the method of distribution of the final credit for 1913 suggested by the Panel Committee at its last meeting could not be carried out, and that the portion of the credit applicable to the first quarter of the year 1913 must be distributed on the basis previously adopted for the provisional credit in order to ensure a full and legal discharge for the Insurance Committee. It was agreed to request the Insurance Committee that in respect of the portion of the final credit for 1913 applicable to the first quarter of the year, the balance after paying the doctor's accounts for attendance in full should be paid in proportion to the numbers on the doctors' lists at the end of the quarter.

Election of Panel Committee.—The SECRETARY read a letter from the Commissioners stating that practitioners must be given the opportunity of objecting to the postponement of election. A circular on the subject had been issued and no objections had been raised.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

LOCAL MEDICAL AND PANEL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the newly-elected Panel Committee of Gloucestershire took place at the Royal Infirmary, Gloucester, on July 15th. Dr. CAMPBELL was re-elected Chairman, and will continue to act as Secretary, Dr. Miles having promised to assist him where necessary.

The following were co-opted: Dr. F. Lidderdale, Cheltenham; Dr. A. P. Davies, Stroud; Dr. A. F. Turner, Tewkesbury; Dr. T. G. Miles, E. Dean; Dr. A. H. Grace, Chipping Sodbury; Dr. William Cox, Winchcombe; Dr. E. Dening, Stow-on-the-Wold; Dr. W. R. Awdry, Berkeley; Dr. H. Cairns Terry, Gloucester.

The election expenses were calculated to amount to £20. At this election thirty-three voters attended. Thirteen members were elected and five elections were void through absence of voters or other causes. The absurdity of carrying on elections in this manner was considered to be apparent. A postal vote is contemplated in the future, and the Committee were unanimous in desiring triennial elections.

Conference of Local Medical and Panel Committees.—Dr. H. CAIRNS TERRY gave an account of the proceedings at the conference of representatives of Local Medical and Panel Committees, and its decisions were approved.

Excessive Prescribing.—It was reported that the Pharmaceutical Committee seemed to object to a circular issued by the Panel Committee requesting doctors to abstain from expensive prescribing, but it was felt to be necessary from time to time to draw the attention of panel doctors to the risk of being surcharged in cases where expensive drugs, etc., were used.

Fee for Attendance on a Panel Patient.—It was agreed that a patient temporarily residing six miles from the doctor's house, there being other panel doctors within a mile or two of this patient's temporary abode, should be charged a fee, as not only did the patient not present a medical card or inform the doctor that he was a panel patient, but the distance was over that which the agreement covered (four miles).

Checker's Salary.—The Insurance Committee, having requested the Panel Committee to pay 25 per cent. of the "Checker's" salary for the investigation of prescriptions, the Chairman was directed to inform the Insurance Committee that the Local Medical and Panel Committee would be willing to pay its share if the Pharmaceutical Committee would pay a similar amount out of the voluntary levy made by it.

LANCASHIRE.

PANEL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the Lancashire County Panel Committee was held at Preston on June 9th, when Dr. H. F. OLDHAM was in the chair.

Medical Certification.—Three doctors practising on the Lancashire County panel had been summoned to attend the meeting for the purpose of giving explanations of their conduct in having broken the rules governing the system of medical certification in so far as they had antedated and post-dated certificates. It was found that in each case the rules had not been broken wilfully, but chiefly through ignorance of the correct procedure with regard to the issuing of certificates. The practitioners expressed their regret and stated that it was their intention to adhere more rigidly to the rules in future. It was decided that no action should be taken in these cases, but it was pointed out to each of the three practitioners in question that a very serious breach of the certification rules had been made, and that, should there be a recurrence of such conduct, the Committee would have no alternative but to place the matter in the hands of the General Medical Council, which would deal very firmly with such cases.

Excessive Prescribing.—A number of cases of alleged prescribing were considered. In the majority satisfactory explanations had been given, and it was found that only a comparatively small number of practitioners could be said to have prescribed excessively. It was considered, however, that some were at fault in prescribing in excess of the requirements of the case, and in each of these cases the Committee estimated the amount of such excess. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Lancashire Insurance Committee, informing them of the Committee's finding in the above-mentioned cases.

SOUTHPORT.

LOCAL MEDICAL AND PANEL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING was held on July 30th, when Dr. LIMONT was in the chair.

Election of Officers.—The SECRETARY reported that the Commissioners had dispensed with an election and the present members were to remain in office for another year. The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Dr. Limont.
Vice-Chairman: Dr. Brown.
Secretary and Treasurer: Dr. Penrose.

Annual Report.—The annual report and statement of accounts were approved.

Vote of Thanks.—The Committee accorded a vote of thanks to Dr. Penrose for his work as Secretary during last year.

Recognition of Committee.—The SECRETARY reported that the Commissioners had "recognized" the Committee as the Local Medical Committee for Southport for 1915–1916.

Contract Practice.—It was resolved to request the Assistant Secretary of the local Division of the British Medical Association to write to two doctors, newcomers to the town, with reference to the payments for contract practice which are acceptable to the local profession.

Payments.—It was resolved:

> That the Insurance Committee be requested, when making out the statements for payments at the end of each quarter, to adhere to the old system, namely, that the amount indicated is for "so many" insured persons on the list, at "so much" per person. Also that it be made clear in the receipt form that the payment is "on account."

YORK.

LOCAL MEDICAL AND PANEL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the York Local Medical and Panel Committee was held on June 30th and an adjourned meeting on July 5th.

Complaint against a Practitioner.—It was reported that the agent of an approved society, who had brought a complaint against a practitioner which was subsequently proved to be groundless, had refused to apologize in any way, and it was decided that the practitioner should forward the correspondence to the Medical Defence Union, of which he was a member, for advice.

Unallocated Insured Persons.—A letter was read from the Clerk to the Insurance Committee, stating that the Commissioners considered the draft scheme dealing with unallocated insured persons should provide for treatment being given forthwith in urgent cases by the practitioner to whom the insured person applied in the first instance, and that the basis of apportionment of capitation fees should be subject to revision in any case in which a

practitioner neglected to carry out any duties devolved upon him. It was agreed to accept the suggestions.

Expenses of Pharmaceutical Committee.—A letter was read from the Clerk to the Insurance Committee, stating that the Pharmaceutical Committee had submitted a claim for £47 in respect of its administration expenses for 1914, and asking whether the Panel Committee would have any objection to that amount being paid out of the moneys available for the provision of medical benefit, provided the Commissioners approved. The Committee strongly disapproved, and instructed the Secretary to suggest that the funds of the Pharmaceutical Committee should be raised by voluntary subscription, as was done in the case of the Panel Committee.

Conference of Local Medical and Panel Committees.—Dr. J. C. LYTH reported the proceedings at the conference on June 16th. Great satisfaction was expressed at the results achieved, and Dr. Lyth was thanked for his services as Representative.

Reinstatement of Insured Persons discharged from the Army.—It was decided to request the Insurance Committee to arrange that insured persons on discharge from the army shall be reinstated on the list of the doctor previously selected by them without the necessity of their making a formal choice of that doctor by means of a fresh medical card, but without prejudice to the right of the insured person to change his doctor, and that of the doctor to refuse to reaccept the insured person.

Change of Address of Insured Persons.—The Secretary was instructed to ascertain from the Clerk to the Insurance Committee whether the new address of an insured person could be stated in the notice of removal from the doctor's list.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

PANEL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Panel Committee was held on July 20th for the purpose of electing officials of the new Panel Committee for the ensuing year.

Dr. Rutter, Dr. Dagger, and Mr. David Ranken were appointed Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary respectively. It was unanimously agreed that the co-opted members for the past year should be re-elected for the ensuing year. Dr. Mathews was elected to the vacancy for the Central district, caused by the resignation of Dr. A. J. Collis. The Medical Service Subcommittee and the Drug Subcommittee were re-elected. The same Executive Committee was re-elected, with the exception that Dr. Slater was elected instead of Dr. Hawthorn, who, owing to military duties, was unable to attend the Executive Committee meetings.

Surcharging.—The question of the surcharging of certain doctors on the panel was then debated.

COUNTY OF SURREY.

PANEL COMMITTEE.

THE monthly meeting of the County of Surrey Panel Committee was held at Surbiton Cottage Hospital on July 16th, when Dr. LANKESTER was in the chair.

Election of Officers.—The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Chairman: Dr. Lankester.
Vice-Chairman: Dr. Lyndon.
Honorary Treasurer: Dr. Walters.
Honorary Secretary: Dr. Cran.

Term of Office of Panel Committee.—It was reported that the Insurance Commissioners had extended the period of recognition of the present Committee to July 15th, 1916.

Temporary Residents.—A letter was read from the British Medical Association, stating that it saw no reason why patients in convalescent homes should not be treated as temporary residents. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to explain that the Panel Committee only took exception to the patients being treated as temporary residents when all they needed was a certificate.

Nurses Acting as Sick Visitors.—A letter was read from the British Association stating that the Queen Victoria Institute of Nurses agreed as to the undesirability of nurses acting as sick visitors. It was resolved to ask the British Medical Association to bring the matter to the notice of other nursing associations, and also if possible get a notice into some of the nursing papers, and distribute through the medium of the panel associations to the provincial nursing associations.

Joint Meetings of Local Medical and Panel Committees.—It was agreed that in future the Local Medical and Panel Committees should meet jointly each month, and that the minutes be kept separately.

Prescriptions for Insured Persons in Hospitals.—Replies were received from the hospitals in the county on the prescribing for insured persons in those institutions. It was resolved:

> That any medical officer of a hospital who is a panel practitioner may only order medicines for insured persons under his care in the hospital, on Insurance Act prescription forms, provided that such patient is on his panel list, and is only receiving such such treatment as he or she is entitled to under the Insurance Act.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to send a copy of this resolution, together with an explanation of what treatment was included, to all hospitals where insured persons receive their medicine from Insurance Act prescription forms.

Expenses of Pharmaceutical Committee.—The question of the expenses of the Pharmaceutical Committee was again considered, and the Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Insurance Committee and state the items in the estimate to which the Panel Committee took exception were the rent of office and its furnishing and clerical assistance apart from the Secretary's remuneration, and it was resolved that if the estimate was reduced to £80 per annum the Panel Committee would put no obstacle in the way of the Commissioners granting it.

Special Mileage Grant, 1914.—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the County Committee and ask for an increased grant for 1914, and it was resolved that the method of distribution should be the same as 1914.

COUNTY OF GLAMORGAN.

PANEL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the County of Glamorgan Panel Committee was held at the Glamorgan Insurance Offices, Cardiff, on July 27th, when Dr. W. E. THOMAS was in the chair.

Deductions from Payments to Doctors.—The Secretary was instructed to send the following resolution to the Insurance Commissioners and Insurance Committee:

> That this Panel Committee enters its most emphatic protest against the various excessive deductions made from our payments during the past twelve months, and unless a satisfactory answer is received from the Insurance Commissioners and the Insurance Committee within a reasonable time we shall have to take stronger steps.

Unallotted Persons.—The scheme of the Glamorgan Insurance Committee for the division of the surplus fund and the assigning of insured persons was agreed to.

SWANSEA.

LOCAL MEDICAL AND PANEL COMMITTEES.

Conference of Local Medical and Panel Committees.—Dr. KNIGHT gave an interesting account of the recent conference, and was thanked for his services.

Payments to Doctors.—It was reported that the Finance Subcommittee of the Local Insurance Committee had recommended that 1s. 2d. per patient should be paid; that this was passed by the full Committee, and was sent to the Commissioners, who replied that they would not pay more than 11d. per patient. The meeting passed a resolution strongly protesting against the proposal to pay only 50 per cent. of the moneys now due, and pointing out that the percentage of insured persons enlisted cannot in fact exceed 20 per cent., and that the panel doctors feel they are being unfairly treated. Further, the resolution asked that the Insurance Commissioners state upon what basis they arrive at the 50 per cent. proposed to be deducted, and that unless a satisfactory answer is given the meeting will consider the "advisability of taking further steps."

Removal of Insured Persons.—It was decided that each doctor should help the Clerk to the Local Insurance Committee in tracing people who were in suspense.

Stock Mixtures.—Ten stock mixtures were adopted.

AYRSHIRE.

PANEL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the Panel Committee of the County of Ayr was held in the County Hospital, Ayr, on May 27th, when Dr. BEVERIDGE was in the chair.

Payment for Domiciliary Treatment of Dependants.—A letter was read from the Clerk to the Insurance Committee intimating that a communication had been received from the Commissioners approving of the scale of payment laid down for the domiciliary treatment of tuberculosis in connexion with dependants of insured persons, subject to the reservation that mileage should be paid only in cases where the person lives beyond a three-mile radius from the place of residence of the practitioner. The arrangement with the Insurance Committee was that mileage should be paid in cases where the persons resided outside a two-mile radius, and it was decided to adhere to that arrangement. The meeting was resolved into a joint meeting with the Local Medical Committee, the members of the latter Committee present consisting of the members attending the Panel Committee meeting, with the addition of Dr. J. Wilson.

Notification of Tuberculosis.—The CHAIRMAN raised the question of insufficient notification of cases of tuberculosis, and the assistant secretary was instructed to issue a circular to panel practitioners recommending them to notify all cases of tuberculosis of every kind.

A further meeting of the Committee was held at Kilmarnock on June 25th, when Dr. BEVERIDGE presided.

Payments for 1914.—A letter from the Clerk to the Insurance Committee was submitted suggesting that the total Practitioners Fund credited to the Insurance Committee for 1914, including the "suspense sixpence," and deducting the sum paid to the Panel Committee for administrative expenses, and the P. O. Medical System, in all £112 17s. 7d., should be divided among the doctors under contract with the Committee during that year, according to the number of persons on doctors' lists as at December 31st last, less payments to account made for that year. The number of persons on doctors' lists, as at December 31st last, was stated at 56,842, and the balance of cash available for division £2,718 15s. 5d. This showed a payment of within a fraction of 7s. instead of 7s. 6d. per person, the reason given for the discrepancy being that no deduction in respect of soldiers and sailors was being made from any doctor's list. The letter also proposed that doctors who were dispensing medicines on a capitation basis, and who had been paid at the rate of 1s. per person to account, should be paid the remaining 6d., the sum to be paid being 50 per cent. of the payments to account already made, the amount still to be paid under this head being £456 10s. 6d. The suggestions were approved. The meeting was strongly of opinion that the Commissioners should furnish a statement annually, showing how the sums credited to the Insurance Committee for medical benefit were arrived at, as practitioners, and also the Insurance Committee, were at present furnished with no information of any kind on this most important matter.

Payments for 1915.—A letter was read from the Clerk of the Insurance Committee regarding payments to be made on account to doctors for the quarter ending June 30th, 1915, stating that of the amount credited to the Insurance Committee for that quarter for medical benefit the seven-ninths available for payments to doctors amounted to £3,546 (a decrease compared with last quarter of £483), which would permit of a payment on account of 70 per cent. only of the 1s. 9d. per person per quarter due, as against 80 per cent. paid last quarter. The payment of 70 per cent. would absorb £3,496. It was agreed to accept this, coupled with a protest against the reduction in the sum to be paid on account, it being pointed out that the possible number of insured persons who had enlisted was insufficient to justify such a reduction as was being made, and that the fact of this unwarranted deduction emphasized the need of an annual statement from the Commissioners showing how sums credited to each insurance area were arrived at.

Conference of Local Medical and Panel Committees.—Dr. PATERSON gave an interesting report as to the conference held in London on June 16th, which he attended as the delegate of the Local Medical and Panel Committees. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Dr. Paterson for his services and report.

RENFREW COUNTY.

PANEL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the Renfrew County Panel Committee was held in the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, High Street, Paisley, on June 23rd, when Dr. CORBETT presided.

"*Rep. Mist.*"—The Committee expressed the opinion that the arrangement presently in force with the Renfrew Insurance Committee whereby "repeats" are limited to one calendar month should be afforded a reasonable trial. Authority was given to Drs. Hill and Corbett to represent to the Insurance Committee the views of the Panel Committee, and, if possible, to come to some arrangement whereby the limited use of "repeats" might be continued.

Report of Central Checking Bureau.—The points raised in the first monthly report issued from the Central Checking Bureau on Chemists' Accounts were fully discussed, but it was decided to delay any formal expression of opinion until the Insurance Committee had had an opportunity of considering the report, when its views would probably be communicated to the Panel Committee.

WIGTOWNSHIRE.

PANEL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the Wigtownshire Panel Committee was held on July 16th.

Reduced Payments.—The reduction of the last quarterly payment to 65 per cent. was considered much more drastic than the needs of the area required, but, in view of the great difference in the percentage of recruits in different areas, it was not considered advisable to make any appeal against the reduction.

Non-payment of Balance for 1914.—It was agreed, in view of the increased cost of drugs, dressings (most of the practitioners in the area dispense), and other working expenses, to call upon the Scottish Commissioners to pay the balances for 1914 within one month, and to inform them that failing payment the panel practitioners would reconsider their position with a view to repudiating their contracts with the Insurance Committee.

Doctors' Lists.—It was decided to request the Clerk to the Insurance Committee to furnish each panel practitioner with a list of insured persons who have been put on each quarter, along with the quarterly list of withdrawals from their panels.

MATERNITY BENEFIT.

MATERNITY BENEFIT AND APPROVED SOCIETIES.

AN important conference was held at Dundee on July 16th between representatives of the approved societies under the Insurance Act and the Maternity Hospital, dealing with the present unsatisfactory regulations as to midwifery in Scotland, and especially the payment that should be made by approved societies for the treatment at confinements of their insured members at hospitals or by the staffs of hospitals. Dr. J. C. McVail, Vice-Chairman of the Scottish Insurance Commissioners, presided, and among many others present were: Miss Paterson, of the Insurance Commission; Professor Kynoch, Professor of Obstetrics, University College, Dundee; and Dr. Hugh Fraser, of the Dundee Royal Infirmary.

Dr. McVail said that though the Commissioners were not actually parties to the conference, they had a very distinct interest in its subject. Experience of the operation of the Insurance Act had tended to dissipate many of the fears which the hospitals had at first entertained, but the Commissioners had agreed that it would be useful if the insurance committees and the hospital authorities of the four cities which had maternity hospitals could be brought together to discuss certain questions that had arisen between these hospitals and the approved societies. It was very distinctly to the interest of the approved societies that the maternity hospitals of Scotland should be prosperous and successful. He was not for a moment suggesting on behalf of the Commissioners that any one should go to the hospital for maternity attendance rather than be attended by a skilled doctor or midwife at home, as the Act gave the mother an absolute free choice of doctor or midwife, but the question that had to be considered was simply one of finance between the societies and the hospitals when the mother elected to go to the hospital.

Professor Kynoch said that when the Insurance Act came into force the directors and staffs of maternity hospitals had felt some anxiety lest the usefulness of these hospitals should be crippled instead of increased. The chief object of maternity benefit was to obtain the best possible attendance for confinements. The Midwives Act

of 1902 had proved to be a safeguard for the poor women, and it was to be hoped that it would soon be extended to Scotland, so that every woman should be assured of attendance by a fully qualified doctor or midwife. But they could not afford to wait for such legislation, and it was necessary to emphasize the importance at the present moment of doing all in their power to reduce infant mortality. In 1913 there were born in Scotland 121,000 children, and of these 13,163 died within the first year of life—a death-rate of 108.8 per 1,000 births. Moreover, the antenatal mortality was probably quite as large as the death-rate in the first year of life; putting the two figures together, it would appear that quite one-third of the new population that should be the nation of to-morrow did not survive the first year. The future health of the unborn child depended on the health of the expectant mother, and to obtain satisfactory surroundings and efficient nursing it was necessary to remove many of the mothers from their homes. Universal experience showed that manipulative midwifery in the homes of the poorer patients was dangerous, and from his own experience of twenty years he could say that nearly a third of the diseases and derangements requiring gynaecological treatment was due to previous childbed illness. Patients in healthy, clean homes could quite well be treated at home, whereas those living in unhealthy homes were best treated in hospitals, as were also complicated cases. It must be remembered that the hospitals were kept up by voluntary subscriptions and were training centres for nurses and doctors. For that training it was not sufficient that only serious and complicated cases should be admitted. The future nurses and doctors must be enabled to see normal cases, and for that purpose it was important that the maternity hospitals should be well filled. Last year the Dundee hospital only received £410 from insurance societies, and most of this was given voluntarily by insured persons. It was very difficult to get all insured persons to contribute on a voluntary basis, and it would be better if all societies would enter into an agreement with the maternity hospitals so as to equalize payment. In Australia the infant death-rate, in spite of a £5 bonus paid to the mothers for every child, still continued at 71 per 1,000, while in New Zealand, where the assistance was wholly given in the form of skilled attention and teaching, the infant death-rate had fallen in five years from 80 to 35 per 1,000. It thus appeared that skilled assistance was far better than mere cash, and he thought that such assistance could best be obtained by an agreement between the insurance societies and the hospitals, so that the maternity cases might receive the best attention in the hospitals or in their own homes under the maternity hospital authorities. In that way much of the impaired health, chronic suffering, and disablement which later cost the societies so much would be prevented, so that the societies would be more than compensated in the long run. It had been suggested that patients treated in the hospitals might contribute 10s., and those treated in their homes by the hospital staffs might contribute, say, 7s. 6d., but personally he thought that some fixed sum for both classes would be better.

After some discussion, during which it appeared that several of the approved societies had already some agreement with the hospitals, the following resolution was carried unanimously:

> That the various approved societies in Dundee should enter into a uniform agreement with the Dundee Maternity Hospital as to the amount to be paid for indoor and outdoor cases who elect to be treated in the hospital or by the hospital staff.

A further resolution was also carried to the effect that:

> This meeting records its opinion that it is most important that the Midwives Bill for Scotland should be passed at the earliest possible date.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS AND MATERNITY BENEFIT.

On the evening of July 23rd a conference was held between the officials of the approved insurance societies of Edinburgh and district and representatives of the Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital. Dr. McVail, Vice-Chairman of the Scottish Insurance Commissioners, presided, and Sir Halliday Croom gave the principal address; the hospital was also represented by Mr. Middleton (Chairman), Mr. James Peterson (Secretary), and by Bailie Buchan. The object of the conference was to correlate more effectively the working of the maternity hospital and the approved societies; and meetings for the same object are being held in the other large towns of Scotland. It was considered by the Insurance Commissioners that a systematic utilization of the services of the competent staff of the maternity hospital would be a considerable step in the right direction.

Dr. McVail said that he was there more in the capacity of an onlooker, but he referred to the many-sided value of an institution like the Royal Maternity Hospital, in which everything was done to prevent not only any immediate evil results to, but also any chronic ailment of, mothers at childbirth, in which pains were taken to prevent eye disease in the infants such as might, if unchecked, cause blindness, and in which doctors and midwives were trained. In the absence of a Midwives Act for Scotland, it was necessary to limit as far as possible the sphere of activity of ignorant women of the Sairey Gamp type.

Sir Halliday Croom, in his address, spoke of the maternity benefit as one of the most satisfactory features of the Insurance Act, for the proper care and conduct of maternity was one of the most urgent problems of the time. In three ways death might come to a woman during maternity: She might die of some ordinary ailment, such as bronchitis, occurring solely as an accidental complication; she might die through one of the conditions known as the accidents of childbirth, such as eclampsia; or she might perish through puerperal infection. Of the women who died in childbed, one quarter succumbed to the accidents referred to, and the rest died from blood poisoning, which was entirely and absolutely preventable. At one time this puerperal blood poisoning decimated the inmates of maternity hospitals, from 15 to 25 per cent. dying of it, whilst the ordinary death-rate in childbed was only 1 in 120. Maternity hospitals then were dangerous places; now Lister's antiseptic treatment of wounds had altered all that, and blood poisoning in hospitals had been practically stamped out, the cases which still occurred being purely sporadic. Outside the hospitals, however, the disease went on unchecked, and the mortality from blood poisoning in private work remained extraordinarily high; for, whilst at the hospitals the doctors and nurses were under discipline and antiseptic treatment was carried out under pain of dismissal, in private practice nurses and doctors could do what they pleased, and there was a tendency to both laxity and carelessness; and, further, in private practice some of the antiseptic precautions could not be carried out so thoroughly. Sir Halliday proceeded to describe the advantages offered by the hospital, referring to the trained medical staff and nurses and to the consultants attached to the institution. He spoke of the prematernity home, where girls pregnant for the first time were taken in and supervised medically, of the prematernity ward for the treatment of the diseases of pregnancy, of the pregnancy and infant clinics for out-patients, and he gave details of the extern department of the hospital, with its nurses, students, and qualified doctors. He claimed he had made out an absolutely incontrovertible case for the maternity hospital, and he touched, in addition, upon the relief of suffering through the administration of chloroform, which was used more freely in Scotland than in any other quarter of the globe. He further showed the importance of all these matters in connexion with infantile mortality, referring to the greater mortality (for mothers and infants) in male births and to the necessity in these days, when men were at a premium, to conserve the sex as far as possible. The prevention of ophthalmia neonatorum meant the saving of many individuals from blindness. The fee to be charged by the hospital for persons under the Insurance Act was 10s. for intern cases and 5s. for those attended at their own homes, and he made a special appeal to the approved societies to support the hospital adequately in order that the teaching of the subject of midwifery might not cease.

A discussion followed, during which a resolution was passed in favour of a Midwives Act for Scotland; a further resolution was carried expressing the earnest hope that the outcome of the conference would be that all the societies in the district would enter into an agreement with the Royal Maternity Hospital, the question of the fee to be paid by each patient being left open.

EXCESSIVE PRESCRIBING.

THE Croydon Panel Committee has issued the following circular to the members of the local panel:

Report of Subcommittee on the Checker's Statement for March, and the Prescriptions referred for Examination.

Your Subcommittee beg to report that they have given careful and detailed consideration to the Checker's Statement for March, and to the prescriptions referred for examination, and they are of opinion that it is essential for the Panel Committee to adopt a settled policy and to carry out that policy with determination.

Either they must abandon all care of the Drug Fund or put down excessive prescribing.

That two-thirds of the men on the Panel can give adequate treatment for an average of less than 1s. 6d. a head shows that excessive prescribing is unnecessary and a waste of public money.

We recommend that from time to time warning notices (a suggested form for which is appended) should be sent to those men who appear to be exceeding 2s. a head, and that no surcharges be made until the end of the year.

Then, after full inquiry into any possibly mitigating circumstances, a surcharge should be recommended of those men who continued to prescribe excessively after the warnings.

We make these recommendations for the following reasons:

Any surcharges made now would be comparatively trifling in amount, and would by no means compensate for the damage done to the Drug Fund.

Many prescriptions to which exception is taken might be defended if considered alone, but taken in bulk their successful defence is impossible.

Further, it might fairly be argued that a peculiarly bad case may have caused the amount for any particular month to appear excessive, but at the end of the year, if the average rate of prescribing has been anything like reasonable, there should be no excuse for exceeding the 2s.

A study of the prescriptions in general suggests the reflection that some of the excessive prescribers treat symptoms merely, and when at a loss for further treatment give pleasing draughts of well-flavoured mixtures.

Thus, naturally enough, they fail to cure their cases, and patients come again and again for medicine, giving these practitioners a fictitious appearance of high sickness incidence.

The argument that this is to the advantage of insured persons and to the funds of approved societies will not stand examination for a moment.

Such methods of treatment are disadvantageous to both. In prescribing, as in most other things, economy and efficiency walk hand in hand.

Naval and Military Appointments.

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

THE following appointments are announced by the Admiralty: Staff Surgeon W. C. B. Smith to the *Comus*, vice Hughes; Surgeon A. J. Patterson to the *Victory*, additional. Temporary Surgeons R. M. Dannatt and J. Smith, M.B., to the *Vivid*, additional, for Plymouth Hospital; W. S. O'Loughlin, M. B. Macleod, M.B., K. M. Dyott, F. C. Gladstone, M.B., A. L. Blunt, C. S. Ogilvy to the *Victory*, additional, for Haslar Hospital; J. P. Johnson, M.B., A. W. Gunn, M.B., and D. A. P. Clarke, M.B., to the *Pembroke*, additional, for Chatham Hospital; J. Drummond, M.B., to the *Warrior*; E. J. Tongue to the *Ganges*, additional, for Shotley Sick Quarters. To be temporary Surgeon: P. U. Mawer.

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

Surgeon Probationers R. McI. Gardner to the *Ouse*, vice Baker; D. McEachran to the *Liniet*, vice Stormer; J. B. D. Galbraith to the *Blenheim*, additional. To be Surgeon Probationers: C. Woods, W. A. Byrn, D. Macgregor, A. Macpherson, R. D. Mackenzie, B. Bannerman, A. M. Davidson, J. Johnston.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

H. A. Kidd to be temporary Lieutenant-Colonel whilst employed at the Graylingwell War Hospital (substituted for the notification published in the *London Gazette* of April 16th).

To be temporary Majors whilst employed at the Graylingwell War Hospital: W. Pearson, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., J. L. Maxwell, M.D. (substituted for notification published in the *London Gazette* of May 1st).

Major A. E. Smithson, M.B., is retained on the active list and to be supernumerary.

Sir David Hardie, M.D., from temporary Major to be temporary honorary Lieutenant-Colonel whilst serving with the Australian Voluntary Hospital.

G. A. Paul, M.B., is granted the temporary honorary rank of Captain whilst serving with the Australian Voluntary Hospital.

The following having ceased to be employed with the Australian Voluntary Hospital relinquish their temporary honorary commissions: Lieutenant-Colonel Sir A. MacCormick, M.D., Captain H. L. L. Harris.

The following are granted temporary rank while employed at the Brook War Hospital:—As Lieutenant-Colonel: J. B. Byles, M.B., F.R.C.S.; as Major: E. Swainton, M.D., H. Irving, M.B., F.R.C.S.

To be temporary Captains: E. R. Tweed, late Surgeon-Captain 3rd Battalion Devonshire Regiment; temporary Lieutenant C. J. Edgar, M.D., temporary Lieutenant A. W. Addinsell, M.D. (substituted for notification published in the *London Gazette* of April 15th).

To be temporary Lieutenants: H. Rogers-Tillstone, M.D., B. Blacklock, M.D., N. McC. Boyce, M.B., J. A. Mescall, J. V. Cope, M.B., A. Climie, M.B., D. Whyte, M.B., F. A. J. R. Brooke, A. McEwan, M.B., M.B. Stuart, M.B., W. M. Thomas, C. J. West, M.D., G. A. Upcott-Gill, F.R.C.S.E., J. F. W. Leech, M.D., C. F. Nicholas, E. D. Wolff, H. W. Dyke, M.B., H. W. Hodgson, W. F. O'Regan, M.B., E. C. Cunnington, H. Hodge, M.B., A. G. Glass, M.D., C. D. Pile, M.B., H. Croly, M.D.

Temporary Lieutenant J. Smith, M.B., relinquishes his commission.

SPECIAL RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Lieutenant W. McE. Snodgrass, M.B., is confirmed in his rank.

Cadet Sergeant T. Y. Barkly, M.B., and Cadet J. S. Armstrong, M.B., from the Edinburgh University Contingent, O.T.C., to be Lieutenants on probation.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Scott Moncrieff (ret.), on re-employment, was posted as Civil Surgeon, Quetta, from January 12th to February 17th, 1915; and as Residency Surgeon in the Western States of Rajputana, with effect from February 20th, 1915.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. Shore (ret.), on re-employment, was posted as Residency Surgeon, Mewar, with effect from March 9th, 1915; and to hold visiting charge of the office of Medical Officer, Mewar Bhil Corps, in addition to his own duties, with effect from March 15th, 1915.

Major T. S. B. Williams, Agency Surgeon, Eastern Rajputana States, is appointed temporarily to hold visiting charge of the office of Agency Surgeon, Kotah and Jhalawar, in addition to his own duties, with effect from May 24th, 1915.

To be temporary Lieutenants: Shapurji Hormasji Modi, F.R.C.S., Vinayak Balvant Gokhale, Ali Azhar Hasanally Fyzee, Jehangir Edalji Spencer, Rustom Kershasp Dadachanji, Shrinivas Vithal Kirtane, Framji Sorabji Master, Sorab Dinsha Billimoria, Kowasha Kharshedji Mehta, M.B., J. Nasarvanji Hormasji Choksy, M.B., Bailey Glemice Valerie Dias, Ramrao Narayen Ajinkya, M.B., Upendra Nath Banerjee, Phanindra Krishna Gupta, Nilratan Chatterjee, Pramatha Nath Ghosh, Alexander Dias, Vinayak Narayan Agate, M.B., Sarat Chandra Mitra, M.B., C. E. R. Norman, Ram Chandra Malhotra, M.B., Homi Shiavex Dastur, Rustom Burjorji Spencer, M.B., Devendra Bharadwaja, Balajipetah Sesha Chalam, Framroze Manackji Vajifdar, Samarendra Lal Mitra, M.B., H. Aung Khin, M.B., Shridhar Chintaman Jog, Pirojsha Merwanjee Antia, M.B., Manseekjee Merwanjee Cowasjee, Braj Bushan Kapila, M.B.

INDIAN MEDICAL SUBORDINATE DEPARTMENT.

Senior Assistant Surgeons, with the honorary rank of Lieutenant, to be Senior Assistant Surgeons, with the honorary rank of Captain: C. W. E. Kerr, C. J. Fox, W. J. Corridon, E. J. Greeson.

To be Senior Assistant Surgeons, with the honorary rank of Lieutenant: 1st class Assistant Surgeons J. Malir and J. A. H. Holmes, W. J. Gillson, F. G. H. Deeks, W. Bamford, and W. G. Mersh.

TERRITORIAL FORCE.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

1st London (City of London) General Hospital.—Captain T. J. Horder is seconded; N. S. Finzi to be Captain, whose services will be available on mobilization.

2nd London (City of London) General Hospital.—Major C. H. Fagge, M.B., F.R.C.S., is seconded while in charge of the Hampstead Military Hospital.

3rd London General Hospital.—Captain V. W. Low, M.D., F.R.C.S., is seconded.

4th London General Hospital.—Major A. H. Tubby, M.B., F.R.C.S., and Captains J. P. Stewart, M.D., F.R.C.P., and H. S. Clogg, M.B., F.R.C.S., are seconded.

3rd Home Counties Field Ambulance.—Lieutenant M. A. Curry relinquishes his commission.

1st Eastern General Hospital.—H. A. Cookson, M.B., F.R.C.S.E., to be Captain, whose services will be available on mobilization.

1st East Anglian Field Ambulance.—Major G. M. Hetherington to be temporary Lieutenant-Colonel. To be Lieutenants: J. E. Brooks, S. D. Graham, M.B.

1st South-Western Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance.—Captain C. W. Edwards, F.R.C.S.E., from Attached to Units other than Medical Units, to be Captain.

3rd Western General Hospital.—To be Lieutenants: J. Lloyd, M.D., E. W. Richards, M.B.

Notts and Derby Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance.—Captain F. R. M. Heggs, from T.F.R., to be Captain, temporary (substituted for notice published in the *London Gazette* of June 25th). To be Lieutenants: J. W. Rammell, W. Bailey-Thomson, M.B.

1st East Lancashire Field Ambulance.—Lieutenant R. S. Young, M.B., from T.F.R., to be Lieutenant.

2nd East Lancashire Field Ambulance.—Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. Matthews, M.B., from 3rd East Lancashire Field Ambulance, to be Lieutenant-Colonel, temporary.

West Lancashire Casualty Clearing Station.—R. K. Merson to be Lieutenant.

1st West Lancashire Field Ambulance.—Major W. T. Blackledge, M.B., from 2nd West Lancashire Field Ambulance, to be Lieutenant-Colonel, temporary; Captain H. Halton, M.D., from Attached to Units other than Medical Units, to be Major. Captain M. I. Dick, from 3rd West Lancashire Field Ambulance, to be Captain.

2nd West Riding Field Ambulance.—Captain F. G. Dobson, M.B., to be temporary Major.

1st Northern General Hospital.—W. Johnston, M.B., to be Lieutenant.

2nd Northern General Hospital.—Majors to be temporary Lieutenant-Colonels: W. H. M. Telling, W. Thompson, F.R.C.S. Major G. W. Watson, M.D., to be transferred to permanent personnel. Captains to be temporary Majors: A. L. Whitehead, L. R. Braithwaite, M.B., F.R.C.S., R. A. Veale, M.D., C. W. Vining, M.D. J. B. Hall to be Captain whose services will be available on mobilization.

5th Northern General Hospital.—M. W. Williams and A. Foster, M.D., late Surgeon-Lieutenant 1st Volunteer Battalion East Lancashire Regiment, to be Captains whose services will be available on mobilization.

1st Highland Field Ambulance.—R. R. Macnicol, M.B., late Captain, 8th Argyllshire Battalion (Princess Louise's) Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, to be Captain, temporary.

3rd Scottish General Hospital.—J. Patrick, M.B., F.R.C.S.E., to be Captain, whose services will be available on mobilization.

Attached to Units Other than Medical Units.—Lieutenant W. Marley-Cass to be Captain. To be Lieutenant: J. de V. Mather, M.D.

Vital Statistics.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

IN ninety-six of the largest English towns, 7,430 births and 3,955 deaths were registered during the week ended Saturday, July 24th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 11.9, 11.7, and 11.4 in the three preceding weeks, was again 11.4 per 1,000 in the week under notice. In London the death-rate was equal to 11.2, while among the ninety-five other large towns it ranged from 4.4 in Wimbledon, 5.3 in Hornsey, 5.7 in Acton, 5.8 in Leyton, 6.0 in Enfield, and 6 2 in Bury, to 16.3 in Great Yarmouth, 16.5 in Middlesbrough, 16.6 in Halifax, 18.9 in Birkenhead, 19.3 in Barnsley, and 20.3 in West Bromwich. Measles caused a death-rate of 1.6 in Rotherham and in Rhondda, 2.1 in Halifax, 2.9 in Barnsley and in Middlesbrough, 3.1 in York, and 3 8 in West Bromwich. The mortality from the remaining infective diseases showed no marked excess in any of the large towns, and no fatal case of small-pox was registered during the week. The causes of 31, or 0.8 per cent., of the total deaths were not certified either by a registered medical practitioner or by a coroner; of this number, 4 were recorded in Gillingham, 3 in Birmingham, 3 in Preston, and 2 each in London, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Carlisle. The number of scarlet fever patients under treatment in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals and the London Fever Hospital, which had been 2,446, 2,471, and 2,468 at the end of the three preceding weeks, rose again to 2,483 on Saturday, July 24th; 342 new cases were admitted during the week, against 348, 322 and 290 in the three preceding weeks.

HEALTH OF SCOTTISH TOWNS.

IN the sixteen largest Scottish towns, 1,083 births and 942 deaths were registered during the week ended Saturday, July 24th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 16.6, 15.7, and 12.5 in the three preceding weeks, rose to 14 2 in the week under notice, and was 2.8 per 1,000 above the rate recorded in the ninety-six large English towns. Among the several towns the death-rate ranged from 5.4 in Hamilton, 6.1 in Falkirk, and 8.2 in Clydebank, to 19.3 in Aberdeen, 19.4 in Leith, and 24.8 in Ayr. The mortality from the principal infective diseases averaged 2.2 per 1,000, and was highest in Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Hamilton. The 314 deaths from all causes in Glasgow included 29 from measles, 10 from infantile diarrhoeal diseases, 9 from whooping-cough, 4 from scarlet fever, and 2 each from enteric fever and from diphtheria. Four deaths from measles were recorded in Aberdeen and 3 in Paisley; 7 from scarlet fever in Aberdeen and 2 in Edinburgh; 2 from whooping-cough in Aberdeen; 5 from diphtheria in Edinburgh; and 4 from infantile diarrhoea in Dundee and 2 in Motherwell.

HEALTH OF IRISH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday, July 24th, 550 births and 341 deaths were registered in the twenty-seven principal urban districts of Ireland, as against 548 births and 293 deaths in the preceding period. These deaths represent a mortality of 14.7 per 1,000 of the aggregate population in the districts in question, as against 12.6 per 1,000 in the previous period. The mortality in these Irish areas was therefore 3.3 per 1,000 higher than the corresponding rate in the ninety-six English towns during the week ending on the same date. The birth-rate, on the other hand, was equal to 23.7 per 1,000 of population. As for mortality of individual localities, that in the Dublin registration area was 14 3 (as against an average of 16.0 for the previous four weeks), in Dublin city 15.2 (as against 16.1), in Belfast 14.4 (as against 12.0), in Cork 15.6 (as against 16.3), in Londonderry 25.3 (as against 19.6), in Limerick 23.0 (as against 18.6), and in Waterford 7.6 (as against 14.3). The zymotic death-rate was 1.1, as against 1.2 in the previous period.

Vacancies and Appointments.

NOTICES REGARDING APPOINTMENTS.—Attention is called to a Notice (see Index to Advertisements—Important Notice re Appointments) appearing in our advertisement columns, giving particulars of vacancies as to which inquiries should be made before application.

VACANCIES.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND EYE HOSPITAL.—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum and £5 laundry allowance.

BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £250 per annum.

BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL.—House-Physician. Salary, £150 per annum.

BURNLEY: VICTORIA HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £135 per annum.

BURY INFIRMARY.—Senior House-Surgeon. Salary, £250 per annum.

CHESTERFIELD AND NORTH DERBYSHIRE HOSPITAL.—Second House-Surgeon. Salary, £150 per annum.

CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Victoria Park, E. (1) Resident Medical Officer; (2) House-Physician. Salary, £200 and £100 per annum respectively.

DEVONPORT: ROYAL ALBERT HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £150 per annum; 21s. allowed weekly for working single-handed.

DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.—School Dentist. Salary, £260 per annum.

DUNDEE: SIDLAW SANATORIUM.—Resident Medical Officer.

FOLKESTONE: ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £150 per annum.

GUILDFORD: ROYAL SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £150 per annum.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Brompton, S.W.—House-Physician. Honorarium, 30 guineas for six months.

LEEDS PUBLIC DISPENSARY.—Lady Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £130 per annum.

MANCHESTER NORTHERN HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.—House-Surgeon. Salary. £120 per annum.

NATIONAL SANATORIUM, Benenden.—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £120 per annum.

NORTHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £150 per annum.

OCHIL HILLS SANATORIUM, Milnathort, N.B.—Junior Medical Officer. Salary, £150 per annum, rising to £200.

OXFORD EYE HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL, Southwark, S.E.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum.

ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL FOR CANCER, FISTULA, ETC., City Road, E.C.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £150 per annum.

SALISBURY GENERAL INFIRMARY.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum.

SHEFFIELD ROYAL INFIRMARY.—(1) House-Surgeon; (2) Assistant House-Physician. Salary, £100 per annum.

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY.—Demonstrator of Pathology and Bacteriology.

SHREWSBURY BOROUGH.—Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer. Salary, £500 per annum.

SOUTHAMPTON: ROYAL SOUTH HANTS AND SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL.—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £120 per annum.

STOKE-ON-TRENT INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.—Resident Lady Medical Officer. Salary, £200 per annum.

WALSALL AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL.—Assistant House-Surgeon and Anaesthetist. Salary, £150 per annum.

WEST HAM AND EASTERN GENERAL HOSPITAL, Stratford.—(1) Resident Medical Officer; (2) House-Physicians and House-Surgeons. Salary for (1) £160 per annum, and for (2) £120 and £100 per annum respectively.

WIGAN: ROYAL ALBERT EDWARD INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY.—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £150 per annum.

WINSLEY SANATORIUM, near Bath.—Senior Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £400 per annum.

CERTIFYING FACTORY SURGEONS.—The Chief Inspector of Factories announces the following vacant appointment: Knaresborough (Yorkshire, West Riding).

To ensure notice in this column—which is compiled from our advertisement columns, where full particulars will be found—it is necessary that advertisements should be received not later than the first post on Wednesday morning. Persons interested should refer also to the Index to Advertisements which follows the Table of Contents in the JOURNAL.

APPOINTMENTS.

BAINBRIDGE, F. A., M.D., F.R.C.P., to the University Chair of Physiology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

BUDGE, E. J. H., L.R.C.P. and S.Edin., L.F.P.S.Glasg., District Medical Officer of the Cardiff Union.

EARLE, H. G., M.B.Camb., Professor of Physiology at the University of Hong Kong.

JAGO, E. B., M.B., C.M.Glasg., Medical Officer of Health to the Greasborough Urban District Council.

MENZIES, James A., M.D.Edin., Professor of Physiology, University of Durham College of Medicine, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

RAMSAY, Mabel L., M.D., Ch.B.Edin., D.P.H Cantab., Anaesthetist (during war) to the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth.

SMAILES, W. H., M.D.Lond., Certifying Factory Surgeon for the Henley District, co. Yorks.

WRIGHT, S. R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Certifying Factory Surgeon for the Romford District, co. Essex.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is **5s.**, *which sum should be forwarded in Post Office Orders or Stamps with the notice not later than the first post Wednesday morning in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.*

BIRTHS.

COLLINS.—On July 31st, at Woodford Green, Essex, the wife of F. Garland Collins, Lieutenant R.A.M.C., of a son.

DICKSON.—On July 30th, at Nelson Place, Newcastle, Staffordshire, the wife of Robert H. Dickson, F.R.C.S., of a son.

STUART.—On July 24th, at Leamore, Walsall, Violet (Mallie), wife of Allen Murray Stuart, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of a son.

MARRIAGE.

THOMAS—WAGGOTT.—On July 27th, 1915, at the Church of All Saints, St. Regulus, Cromarty, Scotland, by the Rev. W. K. Knight-Adkin, B.A., Chaplain Royal Navy, Surgeon E. Fairfield Thomas, M.B., D.P.H., Royal Navy, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Thomas, Gilwern House, Pontllanfraith, Monmouthshire, to Gertrude, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Waggott, of Warden House, Tynemouth.

DIARY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Date.		Meetings to be Held.
		AUGUST.
10	Tues.	North of England Branch, Annual Meeting, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 3.30 p.m.
11	Wed.	FURTHER EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING, 429, Strand, London, W.C., 2 p.m.
		London: Representative Body and Council Election Returns Committees, 2 p.m.
25	Wed.	London: War Emergency Committee.

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